



YFPI Newsletter

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FALL 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:



The State Fire Marshal Division has free educational materials to use in your interventions. We have more “Wise-Up” books to use with older children and “Be Fire Safe” to use with younger children.

From the Minnesota Youth Fire Prevention & Intervention Coordinator

The State Fire Marshal Division has free educational materials to use in your interventions. We have more “Wise-Up” books to use with older children and “Be Fire Safe” to use with younger children. We also have Sesame Street coloring books and family guides for the very young.

These materials are free for fire departments to use, however, in order to receive them, the fire department, and neighboring departments, need to

schedule a YFPI / Public Education refresher workshop.

Balaton completed their workshop prior to fire prevention week. Several departments were represented, received materials and felt more confident than ever going into the schools and daycare centers for fire prevention week.

The workshop can be completed in an evening, at a drill, on a weekday or weekend depending on the department's needs.

To schedule your YFPI / Public Education workshop, please contact Kathi Osmonson at 651-201-7220 or email [Kathi](#).



2016 YFPI Winter Meeting

November 18, 2016

Brooklyn Center Fire Department

10am—4 pm

MN and Midwest Youth Fire Intervention meeting. Representatives from out neighboring states will be in attendance with educational sessions to share their

YFPI and Public Education strategies. Please [RSVP](#) for this important meeting so that Jon Polz will know how much prime rib to make. Please also bring a dish to share, and summaries of your most successful prevention and intervention activities.

Youth Fire Intervention Team

*If you know
someone who is
interested in YFIT
please let **Kathi**
know.*



"So far in 2016 there are 107 entries in Image Trend for children either playing with ignition source, age as a factor or both. Currently there are only 16 intervention cases entered into YFIRES and Image Trend."

It has been a busy season for the southwestern regional youth fire intervention team, with Fire Prevention Month and many active youth firesetting cases. Bill VanDerplaats is doing a great job recruiting specialists to cover the large region.

We are finding that many of these children need additional mental health interventions as well as fire science education. In some cases, the children already have mental health care workers; in other cases, the families need assistance in finding these services.

Jerrold Brown's contract has been renewed for this fiscal year, so please do not hesitate to contact him at 651-724-5517 or jerrod01234brown@live.com. He is happy to assist the current caregivers with intervention strategies or assist in locating a new mental health contact.

If you have questions about your assessment for children with mental

health disorders, he is available to help you understand what you might be getting into and what you can expect from a child with a given mental health disorder.

So far in 2016, there are 107 entries in Image Trend for children either playing with ignition source, age as a factor or both. Currently there are only 16 intervention cases entered into YFIRES and Image Trend.

When you begin working with a family on a youth fire intervention, please remember to enter the cases into YFIRES. If you need assistance with this software, either contact your regional program manager or Kathi Osmonson at 651-201-7220. The mission of YFIT is to provide intervention services to every child who is starting fires. I realize that this is not always possible, for example, if the child/ren who were starting a fire fled the scene before you arrive, but if the reporting party said it was

kids, it is still important to enter that information in the report. We need to take it to the next level by finding these kids and providing intervention services.

The success rates for stopping the firesetting behavior through a complete intervention is quite high. Dakota County still boasts a 100-percent success rate. The way to determine a success is to follow up with the family at six and 12 months after the intervention was completed. If there has not been further firesetting activity, the intervention is considered a success. This is often the most difficult part of the intervention, and possibly the most important. We need accurate data on the success of our program in order to maintain an evidence-based practice. If interventions prove to be less successful than we would like, it is time to revisit the program and adjust it in order to make it successful.

2011—2015 YFPI Activity

The YFPI five-year report is complete and ready for distribution! Ten-year-old boys were setting fires more than any other age over this time period. This is important to remember when visiting fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms. One easy homework assignment for this age group is “Fire Is...”



The student can log into the website (<http://www.njfiresafety.com>), register for the program, take a pre-test, review the series of five videos, take a posttest and print out a certificate for the teacher.

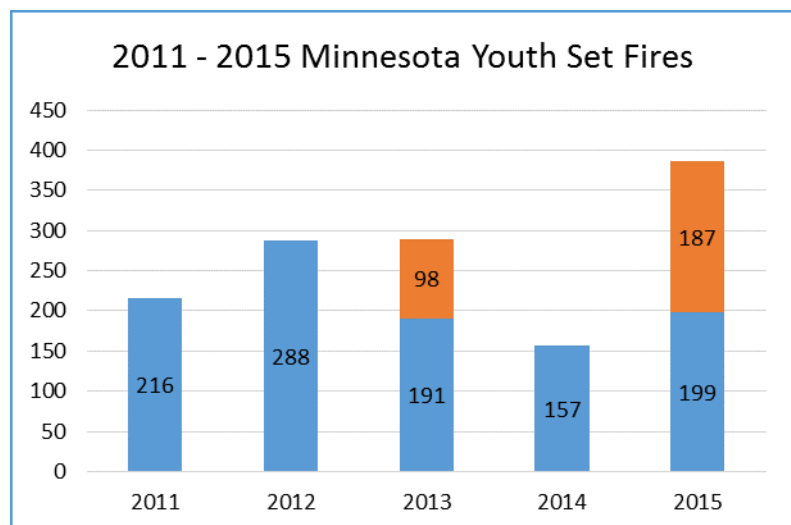
The five-year report indicates that 83 percent of the fire-setters were male, and 42 percent of the fires were set in homes. In terms of location, 39 percent were set outdoors, 7 percent on school property and 12 percent were set in other buildings. Of the 1051 youth-set fires during this time period, only 192 interventions were reported. This is a mere 18 percent of firesetters who received intervention services. The mission of the Youth Fire Intervention Team is to identify youth who are misusing fire and to provide prompt intervention, including referrals as necessary, to reduce the incidence of youth-set fires.

Interventions can be documented in YFIRES or in the JFSI Walk-In Module on Image Trend. Please take the time to document your hard work!

If you need assistance with either of these programs, please contact your regional program manager or Kathi Osmonson at 651-201-7220 or kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us.

The **blue bars indicate** youth firesetting cases that were entered into MFIRS as playing with ignition source or age as a factor. The **orange bars indicate** additional youth-set fires found in an exhaustive narrative keyword search.

When you have a youth-set fire please use “playing with ignition source” or “age as a factor” to identify the case. National data collection will not reflect youth-set fires any other way at this time. Click on the graph for the full report.



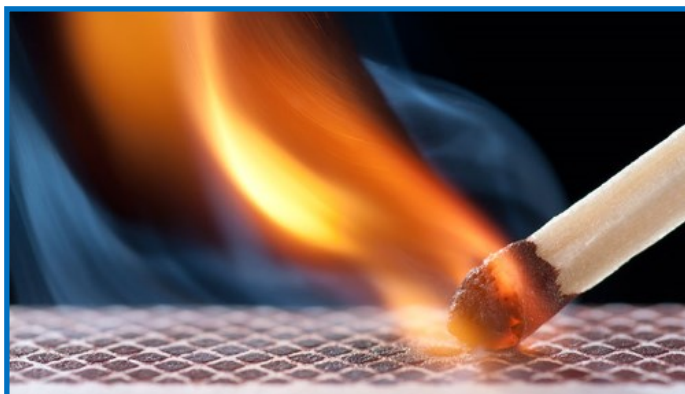
Helpful Links, click on pictures



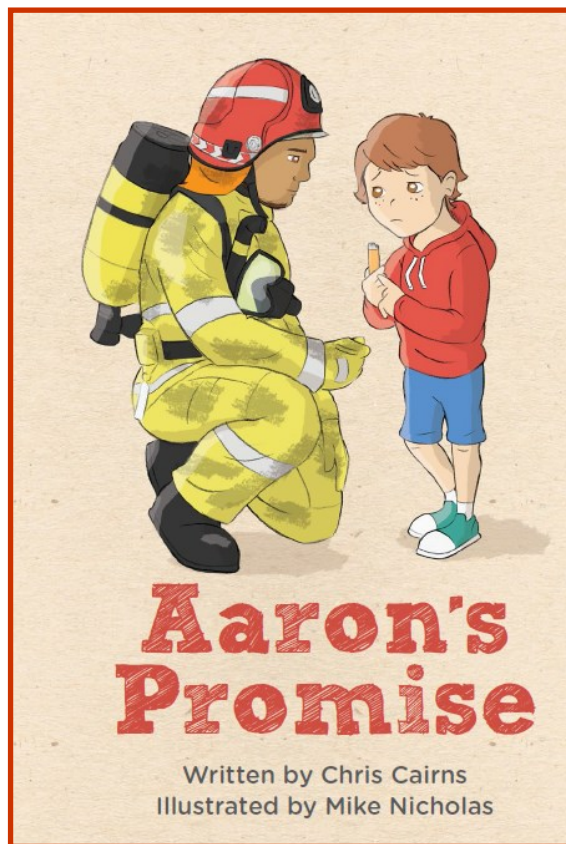
Link to great videos on fire prevention



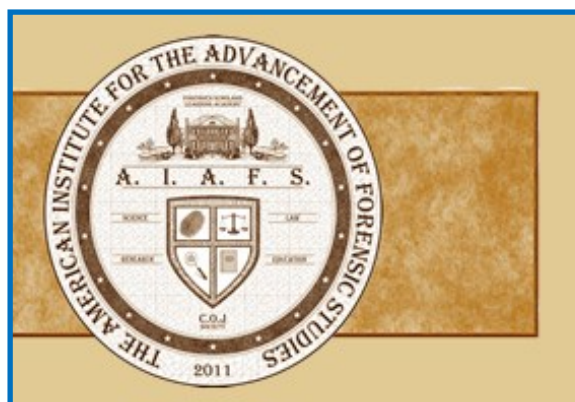
Fire Team USA also has resources



Forensic Scholars Today featuring an article on FASD and youth firesetting.



Download new children's firesetting intervention book. Australia! Click on picture.



Click on the picture to register for Advanced Motivational Interviewing class

Thanks for all that you do!



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